

May 6, 1981

LB 375

PRESIDENT: The motion carries and LR 75 is adopted. We will then go to agenda item #5, motions. We have two motions. The first one, Mr. Clerk, LB 375.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senators Von Minden, Schmit, Kremer and Chronister move to place LB 375 on General File pursuant to Rule 3, Section 18(b).

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, the Chair recognizes you for presenting the motion.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise this morning to do something which has not happened very often in my career and that is to ask for the bill to be brought from the committee notwithstanding the inaction of the committee. I think most of you are aware of the fact that we were discussing two bills here this morning, but the first bill I am going to address myself to is LB 375. The bill was introduced by myself and by Senator Kremer. The bill was heard many, many weeks ago. The bill had strong support from a wide range of business, industry, Natural Resource District people, farmers and agricultural people. To my knowledge there were some questions about the bill but there was no opposition to the bill at the committee hearing. The Public Works Committee chose to make it a priority bill of the committee. The bill has been in committee hands now since the early days of the session. There have been numerous attempts to amend the bill and at the present time the Public Works Committee is apparently equally split about the merits of the bill. This is not unusual on pieces of legislation that deal with substantive issues. The record is clear and very well documented. There has been many instances where significant legislation is introduced where people of good intention on both sides of an issue have differences as to the manner in which it should be presented to the floor, but the point is that almost always when a substantive issue is discussed, the bills are advanced to the floor to allow the entire body to deliberate that bill. I'll give you an example yesterday of LB 184, Senator Bill Burrows' bill, a bill which a number of members of the Ag Committee had serious doubts about, but because it is recognized as a major issue and a substantive one and because Senator Burrows has worked long and hard on that and there are people on the floor who think as he does about the bill, the committee advanced the bill to the floor to allow it to be debated. On a number of issues over the years I have voted to advance bills to the floor with which I did not personally agree